



THE COMMANDANT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
WASHINGTON 20593

18 May 2005

The Commandant of the Coast Guard takes pleasure in presenting the **COAST GUARD MERITORIOUS TEAM COMMENDATION** to:

TOPOFF-3 COMMAND POST ADVANCE LOGISTICS TEAM

For services as set forth in the following

CITATION:

"For exceptionally meritorious service from March 29 through April 4 while a member of the TOPOFF-3 Command Post Advance Logistics Team. Demonstrating exceptional resourcefulness, superior technical ability, and unfailing dedication to duty, members of the TOPOFF-3 Command Post Advance Logistics Team turned a large gymnasium floor into a state of the art office space and ensured the Unified Command had all the infrastructure necessary to respond to the nationally significant TOPOFF-3 exercise. With little advance notice and a very limited budget, team members combed the New London area to identify a facility that could house the 200 plus staff that would form the Unified Command for TOPOFF-3. After the Connecticut National Guard Amory was selected as the Unified Command Post, team members divided into well-coordinated teams to address security, electrical, communications, computers, parking, and floor space arrangement issues. As the Unified Command Post was to be located in a working armory, the team crafted an outstanding security plan that safeguarded Unified Command personnel while minimizing impact on the routine business of the personnel assigned to the facility. Team members realized anticipated electrical power demands exceeded the limits of the installed facility electrical system so a package 60 KW generator set was brought on site. The generator set met all applicable environmental regulations and did not disturb homeowners in the nearby residential area. The team developed a communications plan and flawlessly made arrangements for the Coast Guard's Transportable Multi-Agency Communications Central (TMACC) to be on site to enhance communication interoperability and provide a tactical communication link between the command post and incident site. A computer network, which included 35 computers that gave staff members access to the Coast Guard message system and electronic mail via a satellite link, was set up in the building. In addition, personnel with information technology troubleshooting expertise were on constant standby to resolve hardware and software problems. The team established a separate satellite link so staff members could view the exercise media on the Virtual News Network (VNN) and installed remote cameras at the incident site that were capable of piping live video feed to the command post. This system was installed at little cost yet yielded huge benefits in enhancing the Unified Command's common operating picture. The team accurately anticipated floor space needs and creatively designed and constructed partitions to separate functional elements of the Unified Command, saving the Coast Guard over \$3,000. The dedication, pride and professionalism displayed by the members of the TOPOFF-3 Unified Command Advance Logistics Team reflect credit upon each team member and the United States Coast Guard."

For the Commandant,

P. J. BOYNTON

Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Commander, Group/Marine Safety Office Long Island Sound